Number of deep sea fishing vessels|ships

*249. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of vessels|ships with the Government at present for fishing in deep sea;

(b) what is the number of foreign vessels engaged by the Central Government for this purpose;

(c) whether the vessels engaged are sufficient to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) While various Government Departments|Institutions have 24 deep sea fishing vessels (20M and above overall length) which are mainly engaged in the survey of fishery resources, training of personnel for deep sea fishing vessels and research, commercial deep sea fishing is generally carried out by vessels owned or chartered by private sector entrepreneurs. As on date, 171 deep sea fishing vessels have been acquired by the entrepreneurs and 84 permits for chartering deep sea fishing vessels are valid. Whenever applications for licences for acquisition of vessels are received they are considered on merits. Fresh applications for charter of vessels were also invited through a Public Notice in August 1989.

Appointment of retired judges as poll watchers

*250. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has decided to appoint retired judges as polls watchers in the coming elections; and

(b) if so, what are the powers that are proposed to be given to the retired judges as watchers for ensuring free and fair polls in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Approval of surface design for new brands of cigarettes

*251. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cigarette manufacturers are required to get the surface design approved before introducing any new brand;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the guidelines issued by the Central Board of Excise and Customs on the 31st March, 1987, the Director, Audit is required to grant approval of surface design for a new brand within seven days of its submission; and

(c) if so, what are the new brands of cigarettes for which designs have been submitted by the cigarette manufacturers (with names) but were not approved within seven days of their submission by the Director, Audit and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir. Prior to 20-3-90, cigarette manufacturers were required to get their surface designs approved by Director (Audit) before introducing any new brand of cigarettes in the market. This requirement has been dispensed with from 20-3-90.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is only a guideline and not a statutory requirement.